

Presidents Council Minutes

2/24/14

Take back to your Resident Councils:

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05AM by Lisa Lee from Wilson hi-rise. Hi-rise representatives, PHA staff, and guests introduced themselves. Staff in attendance: Alicia Huckleby, Dave Lang, BettyLou Authier, Keith Draz, Kim Nguyen, Mike Winston, Ann Tranvik, Ed Petsche, Aaron Smothers,

Secretary's report

Copies of the minutes from February 10th were sent out. There were no changes or additions. David Cox made a motion to accept the minutes as sent out. Ilette Taylor seconded. Motion carried.

Safety and Security

Keith Draz spoke.

This is the last week of safety classes. Classes will be at Neill, Seal, and Central.

OIR apartment at Neill is finished.

One of the OIRs at Edgerton will be leaving by April first. Wabasha will also be getting a new OIR by April. (Central will as well.)

A question was raised about security cameras at Iowa. If there is a need the manager needs to be informed about it. They then need to submit a form for it. (a specific need needs to be shown because of how tight the budget is.) Cameras aren't put in more because of the cost and the rapidly changing technology.

There have been 32 requests for cameras as of a month ago.

Experience Works

Eileen Tittle spoke about the possibility of joining a contract with Experience Works. This organization employs low income seniors. They

pay for someone to work 21 hours a week. The person would be supervised by Eileen.

The first position would be helping the Presidents Council. Eileen had Ruby Steward in mind for this position. Ruby already does a lot for the Council managing the monthly treasurer paperwork.

Another option suggested by the Experience Works person was to have the office helper also help PHA where needed.

Individuals must be 60 or older to work for Experience Works.

Connie Lydon made a motion to accept this partnership with Experience Works. Gary Laskowski seconded.

A question was raised about whether the person hired would be trained or need to have the skills already. They should ideally have some skills.

(Computer especially.) They could be trained for other things.

Motion carried.

There is a possibility of having a speaker about gambling awareness in March. Central, Front, Wilson, and Edgerton expressed interest.

John VonEschen is the speaker.

Treasurer's report

Jesse Thomas gave the reports for January.

The report will be filed for audit.

He then spoke about midterm audits. Information and appointment times will be mailed to the treasurers.

PHA Board of Commissioners

Mary Puente gave the report.

Hank Petrol was given a day of recognition on January 22nd. John Wright was also recognized. Both those men will be retiring soon.

There was a request for qualifications for the excess land around Valley rise.

The PHA payroll system is going to be upgraded.

SHIP Grant

Alicia Huckleby covered everything and Ann Tranvik didn't have much to add.

Ross Grant Update

Aaron Smothers spoke first.

All the new computers have been installed.

There have been a number of issues with older computers. Hi- rises that can afford it should look into purchasing refurbished computers of their own if more computers are needed.

A server for all the hi-rises is being worked on. This will eventually make remote computer support possible.

There have been issues with the text size on the Presidents Council site. Melissa will see about making it bigger. She will also add Aaron's contact information.

A question was raised about where to get mouse pads. They can be purchased at places like Dollar Tree, Wal-Mart, Target, Walgreens, Officemax, etc. Getting mouse pads with the Presidents Council website address was mentioned.

Ed Petsche then spoke.

The Ross team has now helped 103 residents find employment.

There will be more computer classes upcoming. New coordinator, Beth Pacunas will be working on that.

There will be more of a curriculum for upcoming classes. There will still be a lot of one on one help and tailoring things to what residents want to learn.

Maintenance and Maintenance Contracts

Dave Lang spoke.

Brick repair will be continued at Dunedin and Ravoux in the spring.

Modernization work on Montreal will also start in the spring. Window weatherstripping work at Front will start in April or May. Carpet installation work at Mt. Airy will start this week. A water pipe issue at Ravoux will be taken care of when it gets warmer.

Issues raised:

There is an elevator issue at Front.

There is an issue with the buzzer system for some people at Seal. There is a similar issue at Front. (People aren't having their phones ring when someone buzzes their apartments.)

The patio doors at Wilson are letting cold air in.

There are water dripping issues at Hamline. (Only in some apartments.)

A question was raised about whose responsibility cleaning the furniture in the community room and lobby was. It is maintenance's responsibility to do that. If there is an issue with furniture smelling or looking dirty you should talk to the building manager. They should then contact the maintenance manager.

There was a comment about rust on shower heads at Central. The issue was reported some time ago and still hasn't been fixed.

A clarification was given about what was considered an emergency.

Emergencies are situations where the building could be damaged or a resident is in danger. There is a 21 day window to fix those issues.

If you have an issue that is not being addressed you should speak to your manager. (You can go up the chain of command from that if necessary.)

PHA management report

Kim Nguyen gave the report.

A question was raised about using the building public address system for announcing Resident Council meetings. Those systems are generally used just for emergencies and things like parking lot plowing. There is no specific rule prohibiting their use for other things. Maintenance has to make the announcements though.

Stephanie Long is the interim manager at Wilson and Juliana Quast is covering Iowa. Permanent managers will be hired in the future.

A reminder was given to bring back information to your Resident Councils.

There are funds available for off duty A-Cop coverage if it is needed at a hi-rise.

Kids in hi-rises was discussed. Kids are allowed in hi-rises but they have to follow the same rules as everyone else. They also need to be on the lease.

It is against the law to discriminate against people because of age. (This includes Hamline although elderly still have a preference there.) You still need to be 18 or older to have your own apartment.

The issue of unsupervised kids was raised. There is a big problem with this at Mt. Airy.

Issues should be brought to the building manager. They would then meet with the head of household of the problem family. Parents or guardians do need to be responsible for the children in their care.

Residents Councils can post rules for children such as the need for them to be supervised in the community room and that they shouldn't be using the computers. (There is no guarantee this will work but it is a good start and will help with other enforcement efforts.)

Resident Initiatives

Alicia Huckleby spoke.

She gave a quick rundown on upcoming activities.

She thanked the vending committee for all their hard work.

The reminder was given to remember that you(the hi-rise) are the client of the vendor so you have a right to make requests. (In reason.)

There have been some complaints about the idea of healthy food in machines from some hi-rises.

Unhealthy items will still be there. There just need to be healthier items for those who can't eat junk food or who would prefer healthier choices. The baseline is 25% healthier items in the machines.

The Experience Works partnership was mentioned again. Alicia said it would be very beneficial to the Presidents Council.

We received a written proposal from Walgreens. The six St. Paul stores will be working with the hi-rises. They will provide prescription delivery and delivery of some other items. Whether or not you would need to have a prescription delivered to get other items delivered will be found out.

On site vaccination clinics could be offered. Also smoking cessation activities. Vaccinations would include things like shingles. Walgreens will be coming to Resident Council meetings in April and May to give more information and find out building needs.

This partnership would be the new version of the adopt a hi-rise program.

Another potential partner is St. Paul College. Students could come to hi-rises to do massages and provide esthetician services to residents. (These are things like facials, manicures, pedicures.)

There is the option to have the YMCA to come in and provide classes. The Presidents Council would need to pay for this service though.

There is a senior transportation issue at Central. Wal-Mart and Cub offer free buses to several sites. Rainbow and Byerlys also do this.

The reason there isn't more of this is likely liability issues.

The HAFA market CSA plan was discussed.

This model will hopefully make things easier for the growers and the customers.

Traditionally you pay \$200 or \$300 for a season and receive a box every month.

One option we are looking at is signing up for two or three weeks at a time and paying \$5.00 a week. Another option is paying \$40.00 or \$50.00 for the full ten weeks. A third option is paying \$20.00 a week for a large bag each week. This will be available at all 16 hi-rises. EBT will be accepted.

There would be a limited amount of choice along with certain staple items in the bags. You likely wouldn't be able to handle special requests.

A question was raised about online ordering. Very few people used it last year so it is unsure at this time if it will be available again.

A survey will be done to gauge interest and more details and a firmer proposal will be presented in March.

They will be going to Residents Council meetings in March. They will bring bags to give an idea of what people will be getting.

Recipes for how to use items were requested. Some vegetables may be unfamiliar to people.

Alicia is still looking to apply for the \$25,000 Busch foundation Grant for smoking cessation activities. The application will be made soon and we will find out in April if we passed the first round. The final decision will be made in the summer.

Thanks were given to the computer team for all their work on the building wi-fi project.

There have been many responses to the survey. They are in the process of being gone through and the data organized.

Community building

Vendor fair: Lunch will be served at noon. If going to the vendor fair be sure you are back by 1:15.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04PM

Next meeting: March 24th